

Las Vegas FIRE NEWS

1998 IABC-Las Vegas **BRONZE QUILL** Award-Winning Newsletter

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I chose to write about people. As the song goes, people make the world go around. Another song says people who love people are the happiest people in the world. I further chose to write about positive and significant things people have done to assist me in accomplishing a number of goals. I will do so at great risk of unintentionally leaving out a few very important people, more due to limited space available in this publication, rather than failing to remember them.

By my very nature I plug and/or backslap people as a course of routine business on my part. To begin with, I will address the people of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue who make me look good on a daily basis. As everyday people you bring your unique personality to this very stressful position in an effort to provide a high quality of service and care to our customers. That makes you very special and if I might say so, remarkable. To the

uniform and civilian everyday people of our department, thanks!!

Some everyday people of the department that I will give special recognition to are Linda who struggles to keep me on point and to Tracy as her back-up; to Mo for editing my writing for our various publications; to Dean, Angelo and Rusty, our union officials, for meeting with my staff and me every other month. We do so to discuss issues long before they get out of hand. A shout out as well to our E-Staff who do tremendous work in assisting in moving the organization towards our many goals.

Additional everyday people I would express deep appreciation to are both in and outside of the department: Sheriff Bill Young and his wife Sandy Young, who gave us superb contact when we were attempting to establish our Las Vegas Foundation. Through that contact, we were able pursue our 501(c)3 status at no cost to us. Finally, with respect to the Foundation, private citizens Julie Murray and Jacque Matthews were the principal drivers to move us forward.

Fire Chief Earl Greene, I thank for suggesting that our respective top staffs meet on a quarterly basis to address issues of common concern. The time spent has been well worth the effort.

Another couple of everyday people

Hello from Captain Theo Adams



Captain Adams & Chief Washington

A smiling Captain Theo Adams stopped by Admin during the late afternoon of Wednesday, February 9th. Words cannot express how great it was to see him again and to observe how graciously he greeted all who came by to see him. His positive attitude is an inspiration to all who meet him.

Our thoughts and prayers are always with him.

FN



"Chief's Call" - continued from page 1

are Councilman Lawrence Weekly and Melvin Ennis who both were the driving force to assist me with bringing Camp Brotherhood to fruition. It is a leadership camp for youngsters.

We recently established a Chaplains' Corps to assist us during various times to include, but not limited to, groundbreaking ceremonies. I certainly thank Rabbi Mel Hecht, Pastor Eva Whaley, and Reverend Mary Bredlaw, for volunteering their services to us in a non-denominational way.

With respect to health and leisure, there are a few everyday people who either challenged or laughed at me. There is Mayor Oscar Goodman who challenged me to walk with neighbors and others who were seeking good health and Tanya Williams who suggest that I try Bikram Yoga (110 degrees.) Both efforts have had a tremendously positive result on

my health. Also Tim Jolley, who encouraged me often to use meditation as a means to good health and relaxation.

There are my colleagues Betsy Fretwell, Christopher Knight, Greg Gammon and Eugene Campbell who have golfed with me to get a good laugh. Also, Betsy and Chris were the first everyday people who I golfed with until it got too dark to see, while enjoying every dark moment. I have a great appreciation for Mr. Sammie Armstrong who lets me ride his horses anytime I wish, plus it's a great stress reliever to do so.

I would like to make an appeal to other everyday people to consider volunteering for a very special program out of Clark County Child Haven known as their "baby-visiting program". The program basically consists of spending a couple of hours each week going to the center and spending time cuddling young babies,

most of whom have been abandoned or abused by their parent(s). The bottom line is they are in need of human contact and I know that a few everyday people can help make a difference in their lives.

Finally, quite naturally, as I stated from the outset, there would not be enough space available to mention and thank all the everyday people who have given me a hand to get many things accomplished. Needless to say, many times it is because of our contact with everyday people that we are able to move the goals of an organization, division, section or work unit, as well as personnel matter.

Thanks again to the everyday people who by the resourcefulness and willingness to network with me have made my job a whole lot easier.

FN



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LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE: Fire Chief: David L. Washington
Deputy Fire Chiefs: Ken Riddle • Jeffrey Morgan • Richard Gracia • Greg Gammon

1948 Las Vegas Fire Department Article Shows History in the Making

City fathers wrote this article about the Las Vegas Fire Department in the first city Manager's Annual Report 1948



Circa 1943 LVFD Volunteers

Prevention of fire and first-aid treatments as well as actual fire fighting last year occupied members of the city fire department, which in 1948 answered 455 fire alarms.

This marked a reduction from 481 calls in 1946 and 470 in 1947, a record of pride to fire department members who work unceasingly to reduce the number of fires by insisting on proper permits in their rigid campaign of fire prevention.

The present fire department is the outgrowth of an organization formed in February of 1924, which was comprised of 15 men, and equipment which totaled a 1917 Reo-Speed wagon and one 1907 pick-up. There was

barely enough hose to load both trucks.

The volunteer crew, which operated from a small building in the alley at the rear of the Apache Hotel, continued until August 1942, when the first paid men were hired.

As the city continued to grow, so too did the organization of the department until the personnel reached a peak of 33 men. In 1929, a new 750-gallon American LaFrance pumper was purchased as well as additional hose. This was used until 1935 when a new Seagrave 500 gallon-pumping engine was purchased and the old pumper sold to the volunteer fire department in North Las Vegas. In early days, the alarm system was the sounding of railroad whistles, the fir-

ing of guns and the ringing of a large bell. In 1942 with the purchase of a new 750-gallon Seagrave pumping engine and the hiring of paid employees, it was quite evident that the growth of the city had passed its early-day "volunteer" status.

In 1945 with the completion of a new fire station, the department was placed on a two-platoon system. This meant that men went on duty 24 hours and were off-duty the next 24 hours, thus they chalked up 72 hours per work-week, at the same salary they received for 48 hours.

Under Fire Chief Harold Case, the department noted many improvements in the past year. Among them was the installation of two-way radio on the same frequency as the police department. Minutes were sliced away in this manner in the response to fire alarms.

Often a cruising police car will see a fire start and immediately broadcast the alarm which is picked up at both fire stations instantly and rigs are dispatched to the address given.

Although an up-to-date five alarm system has not yet been financed, the efficiency of the department was not seriously handicapped. Las Vegas reflects the national average in which 80 percent of all fire alarms are received by telephones.

In 1946, a new International panel truck classed as an emergency unit, was added to equipment and saw much service the past year. The truck carries an inhalator, resuscitator, some breathing masks and brooms, salvage covers and other items necessary in fire department work.

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"1948" - continued from page 3.

This also meant a complete first-aid unit, manned by men well trained in first-aid who were ready at all times to answer any calls where life was in jeopardy.

Crews are maintained in the use of resuscitators and many lives were saved in instances where physicians had given up and thought the patient beyond recall.

Many hours were devoted by the department to rebuilding toys for needy children of the city an last year some 500 toys were reconditioned, rebuilt and repainted for distribution.

Budget for the department during 1958 was \$136,135 of which \$114,008 was spent. The remaining \$22,127 accounted for ordered equipment

which was not available during the year.

According to records of the department, financial loss through fire was greatly reduced the past year of 1947, when the national loss in dollars was higher than any period in history in the United States.

While most city fire departments use only two percent of their personnel in fire prevention work, Las Vegas uses six to eight percent in order to reduce fires. The department noted the leading cause of fire in Las Vegas, again during a parallel to the national scene, was the misuse of smoking material.

The department looked forward to big happenings in 1949, among them

the construction of a third fire station, this one on the Westside. It will require an additional pumping unit, fire hose and small fire fighting tools.

Also expected is the arrival of a new 65-foot aerial truck, which will necessitate construction of a drill tower to train firemen in the use of high ladders.

Additional fire plugs were another project awaited in 1949. Past policy of the city has been to work closely with the water company so that when new extensions are made, provisions can be made at that time for future installation of the fire hydrants and thus hold to a minimum the cost of such installation.

FN

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of LVFR 2005 -1



Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Class 2005-1

Congratulations to the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Class 2005-1 on their graduation from the Firefighter Recruit Academy and their promotion to firefighter. On the morning of February 25, 2005, fourteen academy recruits were sworn in as firefighters at the Suncoast Hotel & Casino.

After being welcomed by Training Chief Dan Allred, Rabbi Mel Hecht gave the invocation and Chief Washington introduced the dignitaries and guests present. The featured guest speaker was City Councilman Lawrence Weekly and Training Officer Mark Rivero and Class Spokesperson FF Ted Ramey delivered congratulatory remarks.

Badges were presented to the following firefighters

by Chief Washington and Chief Gammon: Randy Anderson, Arnold Aoshima, Dale Branks, Kevin Evans, Wilfredo Fernandez, Marco Garate, David Heckard, Bob Hiram, Summer Lee, Ted Ramey, C. Colby Ramos, Toby Remer, Kisane Shimkus, and Glen Wadsworth.

Special thanks to the Fire Academy Staff: Chief Dan Allred, Chief Jay Acebo and Sr. Office Specialist Arlene Jackson. Thanks for a great job to the Fire Training Officers: Sandy Kirkwood, Mark Rivero, Steven Wesley, Randy Gray, Anyika Kamal, and Recruit Training Officer Glen Phillips. Thanks also to Las Vegas Firefighters Honor Guard Local 1285.

Congratulations to our new firefighters and best wishes for a successful career. **FN**

Fire Investigations Meets Growing Demand



New Senior Fire Investigators Nick Nordblom, Anthony Stevens & Tim Ignatiuk

For the very first time in the history of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue, three Fire Investigators were promoted to the position of Senior Fire Investigator. Nick Nordblom, Anthony Stephens and Tim Ignatiuk received their new badges at the Management Staff Meeting of February 8th.

New Fire Investigators Neil Carter, Jeff Archer, David Bates and Laura Brown.

Also at this meeting, four promotions were made to the position of Fire Investigator. These new Fire Investigators are: Neil Carter, Jeff Archer, David Bates and Laura Brown.

With the arrival of the Department of Homeland Security, and with the national focus on emergency preparedness and bomb squad security, Fire Investigations has stepped up to the plate in terms of providing additional security to the City of Las Vegas and surrounding areas. Congratulations to all the newly promoted Senior Fire Investigators and Fire Investigators. The department is extremely proud to have you on the team. Stay safe.

FN



New Fire Investigators Neil Carter, Jeff Archer, David Bates & Laura Brown

Chief Kenny Ong Says "Goodbye"

At the December 15, 2004, Battalion Chief's Meeting, Chief Kenny Ong gave a farewell speech regarding his career in the fire service. It was uplifting to hear his comments on how he viewed the department, as he passed on "lessons learned" over his 27 1/2 years in the fire service. Chief Ong, and his outstanding leadership style, will be greatly missed. He has done so much for this department and has deeply affected the lives of those he met along the way.

Chief Ong came to this department on August 1, 1977, as a Firefighter Trainee and was promoted to Firefighter/Paramedic on July 20, 1980. Chief Ong became a Fire Engineer on July 28, 1983, and was promoted to Fire Captain on December 14, 1986. His final promo-



tion was to Fire Battalion Chief on August 10, 1994, where he lead C platoon for most of the past 11 years.

Chief Ong will be especially remembered for his tireless efforts in guiding the department through development of the automated time system "Telestaff." Chief Ong also was known for taking the time to answer questions from all department members and lending a helping hand whenever he could. His friendliness and professionalism is renowned.

On January 4, 2005, Chief Ong was honored by his coworkers and peers in a farewell ceremony in the EOC. A huge number of "retirees" and friends both old and not so old turned out for the ceremony, wishing Chief Ong the best on his impending retirement and reminiscing about his illustrious career in the fire service. Again, we know Chief Ong will be sorely missed and we wish him the best.

FN

Local Citizen Saves Woman and Infant from Fire



Chief Washington, George Ortiz Jr. & Supervisor Mike Baily

On January 18th, Fire Chief David L. Washington presented George Ortiz, Jr. with a Commendation Plaque for saving the life of a woman and infant from an apartment fire on the City's Eastside in December.

Ortiz was walking to work when an apartment caught fire at 4:24AM on December 10th on North 15th Street. He heard a woman screaming for help and ran to the apartment and found it on fire. Forcing open the front door, he found the living room on fire and the woman and child in a bedroom unable to escape. He went

back outside and lifted and pulled the woman and infant through a bedroom window to safety, and quietly walked from the scene so he would not be late for work.

His work supervisor Mike Baily (right) called the Chief's Office and told him about the rescue. Mr. Ortiz insisted on no recognition concerning the incident. His co-workers prepared a surprise lunch for him at his place of work and Chief Washington presented him with the plaque. He has been nominated for the city's Medal of Honor. **FN**

Transport Program Success!

First things first...

Congratulations and terrific job on reaching the 15% transport goal for 2004! We more than doubled our last years (2003) effort.

Our goal for 2005 is 15% of the total transports in the City. In 2004 there were 55,032 total transports out of the City of Las Vegas. This total divided by 52 weeks equals 1058 transports per week. 15% of 1058 is 159 transports per week.

Thus our goal for 2005 is 159 transports per week. This is approximately 20 transports greater per week than last year and is representative of the increase in 911 calls. For the year 2004:

- Totals EMS Calls in 2004 was 63,194
- Total transports by LVFR were 7349
- Our goal percentage for 2004 was taken off the year prior (2003) numbers and was 15%. The actual percentage we reached in 2004 was 18%.
- Billed out \$3,340,579 and have collected \$1,479,632 in 2004

Your efforts and support have made the transport program successful and we all should be proud of this achievement.

Mike Myers, Assistant Chief,
Medical Services Section

Congratulations to our Employees of the Month!

Congratulations to:

Communications Specialist Yolanda Kozak who was named Employee of the Month for October 2004, Project Impact Manager Rick Diebold, Employee of the Month for November 2004 and

Education & Training Administrator Brian Willett Employee of the Month for January 2005. **FN**

(The December 2004 Employee of the Month will be honored next week)



Yolanda Kozak



Rick Diebold

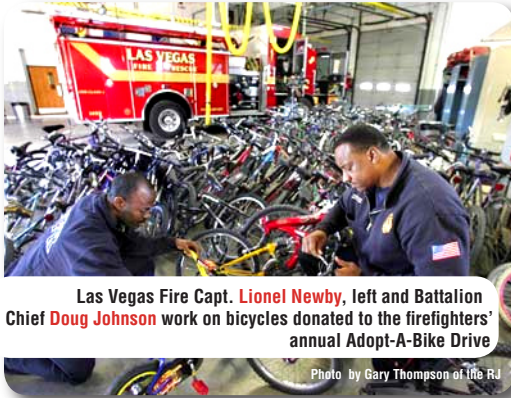


Brian Willett

Battalion Chief Doug Johnson Named City's Employee of the Month

On the morning of February 15, 2005, Battalion Chief Doug Johnson was named City of Las Vegas' Employee of the Month for February.

City Manager Doug Selby com-



Las Vegas Fire Capt. **Lionel Newby**, left and Battalion Chief **Doug Johnson** work on bicycles donated to the firefighters' annual Adopt-A-Bike Drive

Photo by Gary Thompson of the RJ

mended Chief Johnson for his efforts in spearheading the Adopt-A-Bike program, which successfully unites refurbished bicycles with underprivileged children during the Christmas season each year.

Chief Johnson said: "I accept this honor on behalf of all who worked with me on the program. The whole team was just fantastic and they

really made it all happen. This is not about me."

Chief Johnson commented earlier: "The results of this year's drive were very good. A special thanks to the Admin Staff who helped, and the fire stations, all shifts (1, 3, 7, 42), who were awesome. B Platoon was really represented well.

A special thanks to Greg French and Brett Schaefer who have given tremendous time and effort to the project. There were over 150 bikes repaired and prepared for giveaway. Seventy-two (72) bikes were given to low income and special needs children from the Redrock Elementary Program."

Fire & Rescue PIO Tim Szymanski, who nominated Johnson, said: "The community is a better place to live in because of Chief Johnson's efforts for over 750 children; he made their holidays brighter. While many firefight-

ers donated time and personal money for the project, it was Chief Johnson who organized the drive and kept it going over the past three years. Getting the bikes, storing them, getting them repaired in time and delivering them to the needed children were all tasks that confronted Chief Johnson."

Chief Johnson will be acknowledged at the next City Council meeting, receiving a check in the amount



Chief **David L. Washington**, Chief **Doug Johnson**, City Manager **Dr. Doug Selby** and Deputy City Manager **Betsy Fretwell**.

of \$250, a city hall parking space for 1-month, and will be City Manager's guest for lunch at the restaurant of his choice. Congratulations Chief Johnson!

FN

Chief Kleven Named 'Government Employee of the Year'

Assistant Chief Cherina Kleven was selected by the Asian Chamber Of Commerce to receive the 2005 ACC Government Employee of the Year Award. The chief received the award on February 18th, at the Chamber's annual awards banquet at the Anthem Caterers & Trumpets Restaurant.

Chief Kleven oversees the Training Division and Special Operations. She has been with the department for the past 16 years serving as a firefighter, driver/engineer, training officer before she was appointed as the first female

chief officer of the department and the first Asian-American to hold a chief officer position.

Chief Kleven has received numerous awards and commendations during her career with the department including the Fire Chief's Award of Distinction and was named a finalist for the Employee of the



Assistant Chief **Cherina Kleven**

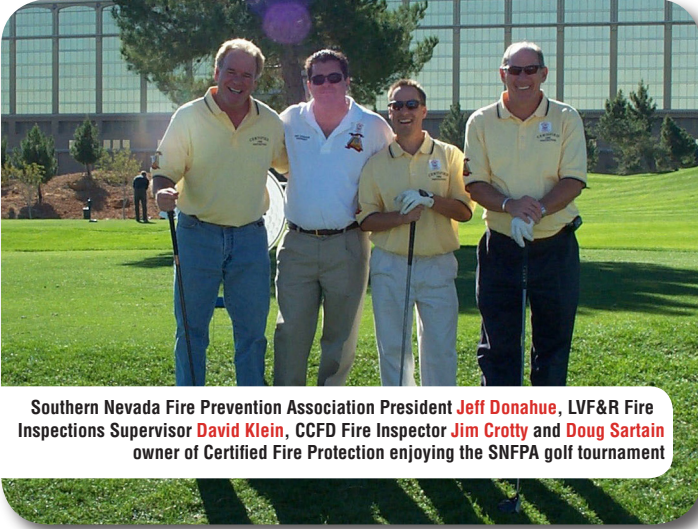
Year and Firefighter of the Year awards. In the community she is involved in a number of charities and community projects including the Clark County School District's Paypack Program, St. Jude

Ranch and works with local senior citizens programs. She has been involved with the department's Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team for the past 14 years and was the team's Coordinator for nearly two years.

Congratulations to Chief Kleven on her outstanding achievements.

FN

SNFPA'S Golf Tournament Benefits Youth Firesetter Intervention Program



Southern Nevada Fire Prevention Association President **Jeff Donahue**, LVF&R Fire Inspections Supervisor **David Klein**, CCFD Fire Inspector **Jim Crotty** and **Doug Sartain** owner of Certified Fire Protection enjoying the SNFPA golf tournament

After months of planning, hard work, sleepless nights and plenty of stress, all things came together and, under the most perfect weather conditions for a late October day in Southern Nevada, the Southern Nevada Fire Prevention Association's Inaugural Golf Tournament Fundraiser went off without a hitch.

On Saturday, October 30th, 136 players teed off on one of the most beautiful golf courses in the Western United States for the chance of winning a stunning glass flame team trophy, or if they were really lucky, one of the outstanding hole-in-one prizes; which were a new Chevy Avalanche, 2005 Ford 500 Sedan, a 2004 Harley Davison motorcycle and a custom BBQ worth \$4,500. Although no one went home with a hole-in-one prize, (a couple of close calls) over \$8,500 worth of prizes were raffled off by the Pin High Golf Girls, so just about everyone went home with something. Chief Greg Gammon won the raffle's Grand Prize, a two-night stay at the Montelargo Resort at Lake Las Vegas. During the lunch banquet and the raffle, local TV weatherman Mark Pfister, who was the MC, kept the participants laughing while he made fun of the VIP's in the group, prize winners and especially the last place team.

All the money raised from this tournament was directed to the Association's Youth Firesetter Intervention Program. Now in it's fourth year, this program has over 30 active participants representing all the Southern Nevada fire departments, police agencies, the local burn center, Clark County school district and their police department, and the Clark County juvenile court system. To date, over 600 children and their families, from

Southern Nevada and other rural counties of the state, have participated in the Program. Our statistical information shows that the Program is working well here in Southern Nevada with very little repeat fire activity by the participants.

Initial totals show that the Youth Firesetter Intervention Program will receive approximately \$17,000 from this golf tournament, which will allow the Program to not only meet next year's budget commitments but also allow for additional expansion of the Program.

In the past couple of months, Program manager, Kathryn Hooper, of the Henderson Fire Department has made several trips to Northern Nevada, working with the area fire departments. The goal is to set up a regional Youth Firesetter Intervention Program that will benefit the entire State. Southern Nevada Fire Prevention Association President Jeff Donahue is also planning meetings with the Northern Nevada fire prevention officers groups in not only expanding this program statewide but also combining regional groups to form a statewide fire prevention officer association.

Due to the success of this year's golf tournament fundraiser, plans are already being made to do it again next year. The Southern Nevada Fire Prevention Association will advise everyone of the dates and times and invites all to participate.

For more information on the Youth Firesetter Intervention Program, contact Kathryn Hooper at (702) 267-2284. For more information or to join the Southern Nevada Fire Prevention Association, please contact Jeff Donahue at (702) 229-0344. **FN**



Deputy City Manager **Betsy Fretwell**, Chief **David Washington**, Chief **Greg Gammon** and Chief **Gene Campbell** playing in the SNFPA golf tournament